

LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission

Meeting minutes May 17, 2018 6:30pm

Arlington Senior Center, Main Hall

Members present: Bill Gardiner, Mel Goldsipe, Lisa Krinsky, Helene Newberg, Anna Watson, Brooks Harrelson

Staff: Christine Bongiorno, Director of Health and Human Services

Liaison: Julie Flaherty, Arlington Police Department, Andrea Nicolay, Robbins Library

Others present: Aren Stone from Cambridge LGBTQ+Commission, Deb Zucker from LexPride, Molly Eskridge, Colin Bunnell, Mason Dunn from Mass Trans Political Coalition

1. Welcome and Intros
2. Meeting minutes from the April 5, 2018 meeting were tabled until the next meeting.
3. Mason Dunn from the Mass Trans Political Coalition presented information about a ballot question that will appear on the November ballot which could repeal the state law that protects transgender people from discrimination in public places, including restaurants, stores, and doctors' offices. The Rainbow Commission unanimously voted to join the Freedom Mass Coalition which is a group of leaders across the Commonwealth interested in protecting the rights of all residents, particularly those who are transgender or gender non-conforming.
4. Aren Stone, a Commissioner from the Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission presented information about how they started in Cambridge. Stone stated that they have a relationship as a commission with police, schools and that they work on protecting seniors and children. Cambridge has also worked to provide training for all city employees on best practices for working with the LGBT population and all Police have received SOGI training. Currently, the City of Cambridge has a research position for the Commission who is now 30 hours per week and focuses efforts on a report about seniors, healthcare and housing. Also present at the meeting was a representative from LexPride, an independent group from Lexington. The LexPride representative, Deb Zucker stated that the group started as a Facebook Group, they began holding events in town but are not a town body.
5. Pride: Rainbow Commission members Lisa Krinsky and Helene Newberg will present at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday evening, the Board will announce the proclamation and Krinsky and Newberg will ask the Board for permission to hang the rainbow flag and the transgender flag as well as to sign on to the Freedom Mass Coalition. A summary of Pride events will be presented.
 - a. Trans colors at town hall, display cases at town hall, table at library, display at senior center, Pride picnic on Whittemore Robbins lawn on June 9th 3-5pm, coffee drop ins

each week in June to be organized by Bill and Anna, commentary in Advocate by Mel/Anna, Rainbow Commission will co-sponsor all events in June at the library.

6. Subcommittee updates: tabled
7. Liaison updates: tabled
8. Open Forum: Discussion of website, Brooks will move forward with developing the website, arlingtonrainbow.org, .com, subcommittee assigned to work on content: Helene, Brooks, Mel
9. Arlington High School incident: Mel Goldsipe provided a recap of the events that occurred in early May which included hate graffiti at the High School. Goldsipe reported that there was a meeting with representatives from the Police, School, Human Rights Commission and Rainbow Commission and that as a group, the decision was made to move forward with Restorative Justice.
10. Town Meeting update: Mel Goldsipe reported that Town Meeting voted to support the change of the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board. Anna Watson made a presentation to Town Meeting which covered both the graffiti at Arlington High as well as the intro to the Rainbow Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm